

- II Claims 17 to 22, drawn to an image processing apparatus/method having first input means, second input means indicating an arbitrary position of image data, extracting means setting means are corresponding to the position information, and processing means (Class 348, subclass 231.6).
- III Claims 23 and 24, drawn to an image processing apparatus/method for adjusting the hue of an input signal comprising means for inputting color information with respect to a specific image region and means for determining the hue of a whole image (Class 348, subclass 587).

In response, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the subject matter of Group II (Claims 17 to 22) in the present application.

Applicants reserve all rights to the subject matter recited in non-elected Claims 10 to 16, 23 and 24.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement. Without conceding the Examiner's characterization of the claimed invention, Applicants believe that a thorough search of the relevant art for Group II will require substantial consideration of the art relevant to Group I and III. Separate search and examination by separate Examiners may lead to duplicate work and inconsistent results. Accordingly, Applicants submit that it would be administratively and economically preferable to search and examine all of the claims together, and request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and that all pending claims be examined in the present application.

Applicants believe that the present paper is fully responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and Election Of Species Requirement, and consideration on

the merits of all pending claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32,078

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
CPW\gmc

DC_MAIN 168024v1